

Alexandria Gazette.

TUESDAY EVENING, AUG. 4, 1896

STORIES OF BARNUM.

Gossip About the Showman and His Show by One of His Associates.

"I was traveling with P. T. Barnum once," said Mr. Stow, "long before the railroad shows were in existence. We traveled by wagons from town to town in those days, halting on the outskirts of the town to enable the circus people to put on their show clothes and prepare for the parade. We were to show in a small town in Pennsylvania, and I had noticed that a bridge over which the wagons were to pass was weak. I sent word to Mr. Barnum to put the rhinoceros wagon at the rear, but he did not do so, and as it was in advance it broke the bridge. The show did not reach town in time to make much of a parade.

"That night Mr. Barnum was seated in the village hotel when an angry lot of people who were disappointed at the size of the parade waited upon him and told him that he was a fraud.

"How so?" said Barnum.

"Well," replied the spokesman for the crowd, "you advertised two miles of parade, and there was only one."

"Yes," replied Barnum, "there was one mile of parade and another mile of d—d fools following it. That makes two miles, doesn't it?"

A rhinoceros is the most expensive animal in a circus. A well bred and well developed rhinoceros costs \$5,000. The Barnum show lost a rhinoceros and was compelled to cable to Hagenbeck at Hamburg to send on another at once. Hagenbeck is the largest animal supply agent on earth. He furnishes the zoological gardens of London and similar gardens in the capitals of Europe. Elephants are quite common these days, and half a dozen of them could be bought for the price of one rhinoceros.

The elephant is the meanest animal that the show people have to deal with. Everybody is afraid of him, for no one can tell when the big brute will take one unawares to gratify some long treasured or fancied grievance.

A few years ago the show was in Rochester when the elephant keeper went into the elephant car to see that everything was secure before the train started. He fastened the rear door and thoughtlessly passed through the car to examine the front door. As he was passing the elephant the brute, realizing that he was alone with his keeper, crushed him to death against the side of the car. The elephant is the biggest coward of all animals and never undertakes to get the better of his keeper unless he can take him off his guard.

It costs not less than \$5,000 a day to run a big circus and menagerie. Notwithstanding this seemingly large outlay a first class show is usually a sure winner. Before starting out a discount for rainy days is made by averaging the rainy days during the past ten seasons. While this is not by any means reliable it affords a pretty fair test.

When P. T. Barnum was in London 15 years or so ago, he sent tickets of admission to all the clergy and to the bishop of London and his family. Barnum's reputation as a philanthropist had gone before him, and it became necessary to establish a regular picket guard around him to protect him from annoyances in his hotel. The applicants for charitable donations would frequently get through the line and apply for donations ranging from \$100 to \$10,000. After the bishop of London and his family had seen the show the bishop called upon Barnum and chatted with him for some time. Barnum impressed him, as he did everybody, as being a big hearted, amiable and brainy man. The bishop on leaving took his hand and said:

"Mr. Barnum, you are not such a bad man after all. I hope to meet you in heaven, sir."

"Well, you will if you are there," replied Barnum.

The answer was too much even for the bishop, and those who heard it shouted with laughter.—Syracuse Courier.

Mrs. Rhodie Noah, of this place, was taken in the night with cramping pains and the next day diarrhoea set in. She took half a bottle of blackberry cordial but got no relief. She then sent to me to see if I had anything that would help her. I sent her a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and the first dose relieved her. Another of the first dose relieved her. Another of the first dose relieved her. Another of the first dose relieved her.

Don't be a fool," responded the duke and turned on his heel.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Queer Bicycle Costume.

Some of the Japanese women have adopted a queer bicycle costume that is a combination of the bloomer with the native dress. It is neither Japanese nor European. Combined with the upper part of the kamona costume, the Japanese ladies clothe their nether limbs in what are neither knickerbockers, trousers, zonzaves nor bloomers. The ludicrous effect is heightened by the girls having the national habit of turning the toes in developed to its fullest extent.—Woman's Journal.

BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.

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A TANGLED TALE.

That of the Discovery and Use of Pure Chloroform.

Dumas, the eminent French chemist, originally separated and identified the substance about 1831, but as an anesthetic it first came into use in another form some years later. The success of ether was no sooner established, to the wonder and delight of the medical world, and, indeed, of the public, than enterprising chemists cast about for other drugs of like power, and it occurred to a Mr. Jacob Bell that "chloric ether" might answer the purpose. Dr. Bigelow seems to have tried it in America about the same time, but without success. Mr. Bell, however, suggested it to Mr. Coote, one of the surgeons at St. Bartholomew's, and he induced his colleague, the great Lawrence, to try it.

So the first operation took place under chloroform, but the substance used was chloric ether, otherwise known as spirits of chloroform—that is to say, a mixture of chloroform and alcohol. It did not occur to any of those concerned that the alcohol had nothing to do with the effect produced. That discovery was reserved for another chemist, a Mr. Waidie, who carried the news of what had been done in London to Sir James Simpson at Edinburgh and suggested to him the use of pure chloroform. Simpson was engrossed with anesthetics at the time and had some of the new drug prepared for himself; but, according to the account of an eyewitness, he only came to use it by a sort of accident. He was then constantly experimenting on the production of anesthesia by all sorts of agents with the help of his pupils, Keith and Matthews Duncan, both destined to become famous men. They used to meet of an evening and test the various drugs on themselves by inhaling the vapor from a tumbler.

One evening some one produced a small bottle of a heavy liquid from under some lumber, and they proceeded to put it to the test with all the recklessness of scientific enthusiasm. That night the learned convulsion became a scene of the wildest intoxication. Each member of the party was found prostrate and insensible upon the floor or staggering helplessly about the room, a convincing proof of the efficacy of the new agent. It was chloroform, and Simpson lost no time in applying it in his practice, whence its fame spread far and wide. The story is sure to be denied by somebody, but whether true or not it is a good one and probably not far from the truth. A legend has grown up and obtained general currency that Simpson not only discovered chloroform, but invented anesthesia.

As a matter of fact, he did neither, but none the less his name deserves to be commemorated in connection with both. His high position in the profession, his ardent research, boldness in practice and adroitness in advocacy all combined to render invaluable service in establishing the use of anesthetics, which, like all innovations, met with much opposition.

It is amusing to read the objections that used to be brought against them in the early days. One was that they were sinful and contrary to divine ordinance. Simpson indignantly disposed of this fantastic scruple by pointing out that the first operation on record took place under anesthesia divinely induced when a deep sleep was made to fall upon Adam in order that his rib might be taken to form Eve.—London Standard.

A Wellington Retort.

As the Duke of Wellington was standing one day opposite his house in Piccadilly awaiting an opportunity to cross the street an entire stranger to him offered his arm to the duke to assist him in crossing. Although Wellington hated assistance of any kind, he accepted the stranger's arm, and the latter, having secured a passage by signing to the drivers of the vehicles to stop, conducted the great man in safety across the street. "I thank you, sir," said the duke, releasing his arm and proceeding to his house door. But the stranger, instead of moving off, raised his hat and delivered himself to the following effect, "Your grace, I have passed a long and not uneventful life, but never did I hope to reach the day when I might be of the slightest assistance to the greatest man that ever lived."

"Don't be a fool," responded the duke and turned on his heel.—San Francisco Argonaut.

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